

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2-4.

Please amend the claims to read as indicated herein.

1. (Currently amended) A system for ~~video object range sensing~~ a proximity of an object to an active source of lighting, comprising

~~a computer having a display, wherein a brightness of said display is operable as an active source of illumination; and~~

~~a video camera for receiving or, capable of capturing still or video images of at least one objects in an environment, placed in front of said display; and~~

~~the video camera being connected to the a computer connected to and controlling said display and said camera, wherein said computer synchronizes an operation of said display and said camera, and wherein said camera captures images of said at least one object corresponding to different levels of said brightness of said display, wherein the computer display's brightness is operable as an active source of lighting.~~

2-4. (canceled)

5. (Currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 4, wherein the difference between two images captured at two~~ A method for sensing a proximity of objects to a display, comprising the steps of:

varying an illumination of said objects using different levels of display brightness;

capturing images with a video camera corresponding to said different levels of

display brightness;

processing data in said images with a computer ~~is used~~ to select candidates for ~~the~~said objects that are closest to ~~the camera~~said display.

6. (Currently amended) The method according to claims 5, further ~~including~~ selecting objects from among the candidates thereby comprising compensating for differences in reflectivity and motion of said objects to reduce a list of said candidates for said objects that are closest to said display.

7. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 5, further ~~including~~ comprising performing image integration to remove camera noise.

8. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 5, further ~~including~~ comprising performing morphological operations to filter out noise from the ~~segmentation images~~said candidates for said objects.

9. (Currently amended) A memory medium for a computer comprising:

means for controlling the computer operation to perform the following steps:

~~(a)~~ flashing the computer display at different brightness ~~leves~~levels;

~~(b)~~ capturing images of objects in the environment with a video camera at each of the different brightness levels;

~~(c)~~ selecting objects from among the candidates_i; and

~~(d)~~ performing image integration to remove camera noise.